Abstracts

Edgar Forster

Strategies of Male Resovereigning

This article is about the alleged crisis of masculinity and about heterosexual masculinity as a strategy of male resovereigning within a theoretical and political field. The process of resovereigning (re-)produces different modes of patriarchal structures. The article starts with the well-known debate surrounding Men in Feminism, which took place within the field of academic feminism in the U.S. in the early 1980s. Twenty years later the focus of this discussion has shifted to everyday life, and strategies of resovereigning are now located in the broad and public discourse of the so-called «crisis of masculinity». This historical reconstruction makes it possible to identify general strategies of male resovereigning and to make explicit, at the end, some comments on «non-sovereign» male practices.

Keywords: Male Resovereigning, Men in Feminism, Crisis of Masculinities

Robin Celikates/Simon Rothöhler

Cinematic representation of the (male) body – between remasculinization and subversion

After distinguishing two cultural and political strategies of the visualisation of the (male) body – those that aim at remasculinisation and those that undermine hegemonic representations of masculinity – the authors demonstrate how the first operates in recent neo-heroic blockbuster movies and how the latter is exemplified in Claire Denis’s Beau Travail (1999) and L’Intrus (2004). It is argued that Denis’s work – especially if read together with the theoretical work of Jean-Luc Nancy – suggests an alternative conception of the interrelation between the (male) body, identity and community that does not rely on closure and immunisation.

Keywords: Bodies, Masculinities, Identities, Film, (Claire) Denis, (Jean-Luc) Nancy

Hearn/Holmgren

Locating Men’s diverse gender-conscious Positionings on Gender Equality and Feminism: theoretical frameworks and practical passings

This article analyses men’s diverse positionings in relation to gender, gender equality and feminism, using a four-dimensional theoretical framework. A one-dimensional continuum and a two-dimensional triangular conceptualization for locating such diverse positionings are outlined. The latter sections focus on men’s (pro)feminist positionings in relation to feminism. This involves exploring different three-dimensional understandings of feminism and their implications for men. The final part, relating to the third dimension in practice, adds a detailed fourth dimension by analyzing what men active «in feminism» in Sweden say of their positionings, particularly in passing (or not) as «(pro)feminist». The Swedish case is interesting, with qualified consensus on gender equality and a broadly positive place for men in feminism.

Keywords: Feminism, Feminist Men, Gender Equality, Men, Passing, Positioning, Profeminism
Mechthild Bereswill

The Relation of Masculinity and Violence. Empirical findings and theoretical reflections in the context of prison violence

The article is focused on a specific constellation of violence and gender. Exploring the violence-related self-representation of young men in prison we find a significant overlapping of identification with violence as hegemonic ideal of masculinities on the one hand and victimisation and fear on the other hand. This victim-perpetrator – dichotomy is hidden behind stereotypical images of hypermasculinity and the rejection of pain and fear. Weakness is associated with femininity. Masculinity is constructed as tough and immune against pain. Interviews with young men inside and outside prison show the highly conflict-ridden dynamic of their violence-imbued relation to each other and their self-identifications. These findings are discussed within the context of their marginalized social positions and the context of changing gender configurations.

Keywords: Gender and Violence, Marginalized Masculinities, Victim-Perpetrator-Dichotomy, Prison Violence

Carmen Baumelet

The Establishment of Gender Hierarchy in the Computer Laboratory: Everyday Interactions in Science

Although the socio-economic base of society has undergone profound structural changes, the persistency of gender hierarchy is striking. This also applies to the field of natural sciences. Women are still underrepresented, in particular, in the academic staff of engineering and computer sciences. How can this persistency of gender inequality be explained? Partly, the answer lies in everyday interaction processes. Where sex categorization takes place, it evokes cultural gender stereotypes and thus establishes and reinforces an unequal gender system. The ethnography of interaction mechanisms in scientific computer laboratories shows how gender hierarchy is established on the micro level of everyday interaction.

Keywords: Gender Hierarchy, Interaction, Natural Science, Computer Laboratory, Ethnography

Monika Mayrhofer

The Department for Male Issues – Governing Gender in Austria

Since the establishment of the Department for Male Issues (Männerpolitische Grundsatzabteilung) in the Austrian Ministry of Social Security in 2001, controversial debates about the political purpose of this department have not subsided. The article argues that the setting up of this institution is part of a broader dispositive of conservative male politics including discursive, material as well as symbolic political strategies. By pointing out these strategies central features of the dispositive of conservative masculine politics can be distinguished, which re-institutionalize traditional male politics and traditional gender images.

Keywords: Austrian Department for Male Issues, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Policy, Men's Studies

Marc Thielen

Deceptive Safety – Homophobia as a source of problematic situations in the lives of gay Iranian refugees in German asylums

Abstracts
In many countries of the world homosexuality is persecuted until the present day and is punished with prison or corporeal sentences, perhaps even with the death penalty. These forms of gender specific persecution trigger flight movements towards those countries which have legalized homosexuality and included it into their asylum granting catalogues. But also in the supposedly ‘safe’ countries the life situation of gay and lesbian refugees remains precarious. This is illustrated by homophobic violence and discrimination experienced in the asylum context with German authorities who are involved with Iranian gays. As a consequence of this constellation, the victims have little hope of getting help or support. As a first step on the way to remedy, those carrying responsibility in the asylums and in the bureaucracies must become sensitized for the specific problems of gay refugees.

**Keywords:** Gay Refugees, Political Asylum, Gender specific Persecution, Homophobic Violence, Homophobic Discrimination

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Silvia Ruschak

**Meaningful Trousers. Female Ways of Dressing in South Ghana in the 20th Century**

Trousers for women are getting very common in Ghana, and women of different age and class enjoy wearing them. That fact, however, provides serious public as well as private discussions on female morals, sexuality and national identity. Clothing is a valuable archive that reveals changes on various levels like the social, political, or cultural. This text takes trousers as an archive and analyses five levels of meaning in which trousers for women can be discussed in the South Ghanaian context. The different levels are not exclusive. They support each other in certain contexts but also contradict each other. In any case, the meanings of trousers in urban societies in South Ghana unveil alterations in individual as well as in historical processes.

**Keywords:** South Ghana, Trousers, Gender Relations, Material Sources